Farmers, cities shun septic tank wastes

them to violate their discharge per-mit limits into a river."

the limit worster the restriction of the limit of a few countries that it is a particular problem because it contains fast, alls and grease.

But Hogan added that Detroit is willing to make contracts with public agencies (suborban governments) to accept it. "Detroit is willing to make contracts with public agencies (suborban governments) to accept it. "Detroit is willing to megotiate with any county it serves," he said.

FURNITURE III

or Country living — on rural roads and with soptic tanks — is growing there popular particularly in westmen oppopular particularly in westmen of the source of the formers and municipal sewage treatment plants are increasingly reductant to accept the wastes pumped from septic tanks.

"We're beginning to develop a crisis," said Dan O'Neill, chief of land applications for the state Department of Natural Resources.

"It's not just a state problem. It's hot just an individual septage hauler's problem, it's a county and gwmships problem, too," O'Neill toil a meeting of the Arcavide Water Quality Board last week.

AWQB PASSED a resolution say-ing sewage treatment plants "must — In the short run at a minimum-step up to the problem wherever possible to avoid impending health and environmental threats." For the long term, AWQB called on county agencies to seek disposal options, including joint solutions to treduce staff costs.

on county agenerics to according to perform, including foliat solutions to produce staff costs.

Currently, and homes, restaurants and homes generate 38 roams of sopile waste a roam to the even-county southeast-cern Michigan region. That volume will increase to about 55 million gall-atons by the year 2000, based on population growth estimates, according to Jack Durbin, Washtenaw County bublic works director.

Oakland County is leading the way ye issuing 6,200 septic system permits in the last six years compared to 4,000 in Livingston County, 3,000 in Macomb and lesser numbers in Washtenaw Wayne, St. Clair and Monroe counties.

Oakland has about one-third of all

Oakland has about one-third of all Oakiand has about one-third of all unsewered housing units in the region, according to AWQB reports. It's projected that by 2000 Oakland will have 102,000 unsewered units — your times as many as the next closts:

Gym, pool open at OCC

The pool, weight-exercise room, gym and racquetball courts will be open to the public during the holiday break at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, 1-696 at Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

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Oakland County has about one-third of all unsewered housing units in the region. By the year, 2000 Oakland will have 102,000 unsewered units — four times as many as any other county. Meanwhile, places to dump the septic wastes — farms and wastewater plants - are becoming scarcer.

MEANWHILE, PLACES to dump the waste — farms and wastewater plants — are becoming scarcer. Jack London, a septle waste hauler from Macomb County, said, "The farmer has trouble with septic trucks placing ruts in his field. His neighbors will shun him, fearful he'il be putting poisonous things in the soil.

soil.
"Pretty soon he'll shut down because he doesn't like the soil compaction and the cold shoulder he's getting from his neighbor," London said, adding that farms can't spread the waste on frozen soil during win-

the waste on frozen soil during win-ter months.

A Warren official said his city's wastewater plant is refusing septic waste because of odors, truck traffic and the fear of toxic chemicals that are finding their way even into household wastes.

Ypsitanti's plant has cut by half the volume it will accept. A Royal Oak plant has reduced its hours by closing on evenings and weekends, London reported.

DNR'S O'NEILL explained some of the reluctance of municipal plants to accept wastes: "Septage is more concentrated than everyday sewage. It can be a shock to the system if it's dumped all at once. It may cause

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Other plants still accepting the wastes are in Wyandotte, Monroe and Ann Arbor, according to James Murray, AWQB 'chair and Washtenaw County drain commissioner.

tenaw County drain commissioner.

AWQB MEMBERS, local officials and haulers agreed that costs will rise, both because of tigher new state regulations on haulers and increasing treatment costs.

"The homeowner used to paying \$50 a year to handle wastes will list their costs are going to go up, lad their costs are going to go up, lad their costs are going to go up, lad to raise his rates loses all his business. The last guy to raise his rates is the one who's dumpling it illegally. "Their disposal rates could increase to five times what they are now," said London, who serves Macomb and Oakland counties. Durbin, the Washtenaw DPW director, said it's recommended that sepite tanks be pumped every three years, "but in practice it's more like every four office years."

Older tanks have capacities of Older tanks have capacities of Collegallons capacity, Durbin said. WASHTENAW officials are code.

R WAREHOUSE

sidering other options, Durbin added. These include composting and pre-treating the waste in "package" sep-ite treatment plants before sending them on to wastewater treatment

them on to wastewater treatment plants.

Ted Westmelr, Livingston County wirdnemental health director, said 85 percent of his county is served by septile tanks, and the waste is hauled to 25 land sites, some as far away as Genesse and Washtenaw countles.

"We need to help haulers find more sites," he said.

John Tirnol, St. Clair County environmental health director, said wastewater treatment plants are the

JANIS BOBRIN, AWQB manager, said disposal options must be locally available, environmentally sound and affordable.

AWQB is responsible for seeking compliance with water quality polices contained in the regional water quality plan, adopted under the federal Clean Water Act of 192.

AWQB reviews local development proposals from a regional standpoint.



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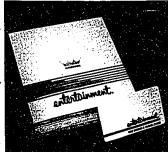
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